

Standout Boyd puts CM on positive role

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Catholic Memorial senior Joshua Boyd has plenty to be thankful for this Thanksgiving, because of the many blessings he has attained through hard work on and off the playing fields during his high school career. Likewise, members of the CM community can be thankful for being blessed with the 18-year-old's presence in their lives.

"Josh may fly under the radar publicly, but in school we are so proud of him," CM dean of students Thomas Ryan said. "Not because of his athletic achievements but because of who he is as a person."

Boyd, who lives in Hyde Park, is the valedictorian of his class, the captain of the football and wrestling teams, and finds himself in the enviable position of having his pick of Ivy League schools to attend next fall. The list of possible destinations? Harvard, Brown, Columbia and Dartmouth.

What sets the 6-foot-1, 205-pound Boyd apart from many others who have been blessed with the good fortune he has seen while at CM are the character traits imparted through his parents: maintaining humility while striving to reach his highest goals. Boyd is a terrific athlete, but more importantly, a role model for the rest of the student body at the West Roxbury school.

As a tight end and outside linebacker on the football field, Boyd has demanding positions. But he tackles football the same way he tackles everything else.

"I lead by action," Boyd said. "I am not flashy or anything. When it comes to the game, I like to do my job. I am very serious about my business on the field. I also like to crack jokes and have a fun time, too."

Boyd has managed to find a perfect balance between athletics, school, spending time with friends and studying.

"We talk about competing and working hard all the time," Knights coach Alex Campea said. "Kids compete for grades, a position on a team, and for college. If you are willing to work hard, good things will happen to you. Josh epitomizes that."

Boyd has played a big role in helping to bring the football team back to a higher level of prominence during his three years as a varsity player. His sophomore year, CM's record was 1-9, and last year the Knights improved to 6-4. The team has taken another step forward this season and enters tomorrow's game at Viola Stadium against BC High with an 8-1 mark.

"Our team is so much closer compared to my sophomore year," Boyd said. "We have a lot of senior leadership and have grown up through the years together."

But in the tale of tradition, the toughest game still remains tomorrow. And all of Boyd's family will be there, including his older brother Eric, a CM football alum.

"As a very young kid, Josh would come and watch his brother in all the football games," Campea said. "Now, the roles are reversed. His brother hasn't missed a game all season."

Boyd's family background is one reason why he has turned out to be such a grounded, unassuming person.

"When your parents set a certain bar for you and expect you to do well, you don't want to let them down," Boyd said. "I never want to disappoint them. But, it also doesn't hurt that I like school and enjoy learning new things every day."

While he admits it has been tough juggling his commitments to football, wrestling, schoolwork and everything else that falls onto a senior's plate, Boyd quickly points out he never has had a problem finishing anything. And his coach is quick to back up that statement.

"Whether it be in the weight room, on the field or in the classroom, Josh gets it done every single time," Campea said. "In my 32 years of coaching, I have never coached a better individual."

Admittedly, Boyd still has a lot of loose ends to tie up before he moves on to graduation.

"I am definitely looking to finish up the football season as a Super Bowl champ, and for wrestling . . . I want to achieve good things there, maybe a couple of banners in the gym. Then, decide which college is right for me," he said.

Boyd truly does have plenty to be thankful for this Thanksgiving. As does that entire CM community.

"He has continued the legacy of our athletes being great students and great men of Catholic character," Ryan said. "He has really carried the torch of excellence in everything that we do."

CAPTION: KNIGHTS' BIG DAY: Catholic Memorial's Josh Boyd works out in preparation for tomorrow's Catholic Conference showdown with BC High. HERALD PHOTOS BY FAITH NINIVAGGI

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